

## Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 EB-07 ACDA-05

AID-05 /106 W

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R 200920Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3667

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 0118

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SS, AG, MO, MR, SP

SUBJECT: QUAI COMMENTS ON SPANISH SAHARA, MOROCCO AND ALGERIA

1. HAVE READ WITH INTEREST QUAI'S VIEWS ON FRENCH RELATIONS WITH STATES OF THE AREA REPORTED YOUR 1236. ASSUME ALGERIA IN IMMATURE CATEGORY.

2. WHILE AWAITING DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO YOUR PARAGRAPH 11, HAVE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON OUR OWN:

(A) BARROT VISIT: FRENCH AMBASSADOR DE COMMINES REPORTS VISIT OF FRENCH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HOUSING BARROT WENT VERY WELL. HE WAS ACCORDED PROTOCOLAIRE STATUS AS MINISTER AND RED CARPET ROLLED OUT WHEREVER HE WENT. HE HAD USEFUL DICUSSSIONS ABOUT FUTURE TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING IN ENGINEERING FIELD AND LEFT HAPPY. ALGERIANS  
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CONTINUING BUSINESS AS USUAL WITH FRENCH ECONOMIC CONTACTS,

JUST AS THEY ARE WITH OURS. DE COMMINES NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT SAHARA IS VITAL ISSUE TO BOUMEDIENE AND WE SHOULD NOT CONFUSE ECONOMIC WITH POLITICAL COOPERATION.

(B) SOVIETARMS: WE HAVE LITTLE INFORMATION ON SUBJECT, BUT DOUBT THAT SOVIETS DROPPED OFF HERE ARMS ORIGINALLY INTENDED FOR ANGOLA. WE ASSUME RUMORS OF MAJOR ARMS DEAL ARE PROBABLY TRUE AND THAT ARMS ARE BEING BROUGHT IN BY SEA.

(C) BOUMEDIENE'S POSITION: THERE HAS BEEN AUTOMATIC SPECULATION THAT BOUMEDIENE'S INTERNAL POSITION IS EXPLANATION FOR HIS POSTURE ON SAHARA, AND ON SUCH QUESTIONS AS RECENT SABOTAGE EFFORTS BY SOA. THERE NO DOUBT HE FEELS THREATENED, AND FOR PAST SIX MONTHS THERE HAS BEEN NOTICEABLE TIGHTENING OF SECURITY MEASURES PROTECTING REGIME. THERE IS, NEVERTHELESS, NO PARTICULAR REASON FOR BOUMEDIENE TO BE IN TROUBLE AT HOME. THERE ARE USUAL PROBLEMS WHICH ENDEMIC WITH ALGERIAN ECONOMY, BUT ON WHOLE THINGS GOING FAIRLYWELL AND THERE LITTLE GRUMBLING BY PUBLIC. AT MOMENT THERE NO DOMESTIC NEED FOR FOREIGN DEVILS TO DIVERT ATTENTION. (SEE ALGIERS 3623 NOTAL FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS.)PARKER

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